COMIC SHOP NEWS 1992

SUMMER PREVIEW

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COMIC SHOP NEWS 1992 SUMMER PREVIEW

Another season, another ***CSN Preview***! There are more comics than ever before scheduled for summer release; we're here to help you sort through the summertime bonanza and make sure you don't miss out on any primo comics in the next three months (and it's certainly easy to do, what with all those vacation trips and weekend getaways...). There's no way we can look at everything coming out in the next three months--that would take many dozens of pages--so we're offering instead a selective look at the newest, the best, and the hottest books of the summer. (Of course, you can get more detailed information on a weekly basis in the pages of ***Comic Shop News***--but you already knew that, didn't you?)

AC

Femforce reaches the big Five-Oh this summer; in celebration, Bill Black and Mark Heike bring together virtually every member of the Femforce team for a special storyline, including Yankee Girl, Jet Girl, Miss Masque, and many others. ***Femforce #50*** will also include a special flexidisc version of "Something Special," the Femforce theme song, as recorded by the Keys. *(June, $2.95)*

Reddevil (the Golden Age Daredevil--as you might suspect, a name change was essential) is back in a combination new-and-reprint story that is built around a classic Jack Cole Reddevil-versus-the-Claw story from 1941. Reddevil is more than a little concerned, however, when he discovers that the Claw never existed! Is Reddevil insane? He uses Darkfire's Mento helmet to find out--and the story continues into ***Femforce #51***, scheduled for release the same month. *(July, $2.95@)*

Adventure

After more than two years, ***Alien Nation*** fans will at last enjoy the ending of the cliffhanger storyline that was left hanging when the television show was cancelled by Fox. ***Alien Nation: The Lost Episode*** summarizes the first half of the story and then presents the conclusion, all based on the original script that would have been filmed had Fox renewed the series. *(June, $4.95)*

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Mary Roberts Rinehart's ***The Bat***, a classic mystery novel featuring a bat-costumed criminal, was one of the inspirations for Bob Kane's Batman; it's only appropriate, therefore, that ***The Bat*** should also appear in his own comic book series. *(July-August, $2.50)*

Dracula proves just how undead he is when he returns in a new limited series by Jones and Ross; this time, Dracula's calling London home, and it's up to Chief Inspector Harrison to halt his scarlet spree. *(August, $2.50)*

Evil Ernie was such a killer success that the first issue sold out before many fans could latch onto a copy; to fill that fannish void, Adventure is re-presenting that issue's contents as a part of ***Evil Ernie: Special Edition #1.*** As a bonus, they've included a special 8-page Evil Ernie story by Pulido and Hughes and behind-the-scenes art. *(June, $2.95)*

Aircel

Scimidar, the sexy adventure heroine, returns in an all-new mature-readers series this summer; the story takes an unusual turn right from the start, when Victor Sturgess asks Scimidar to kill someone for him. Even Scimidar is surprised when the "someone" turns out to be Sturgess himself. The first issue of ***Scimidar Book VI: Slashdance*** will be available in a regular and a deluxe edition with bonus extras. *(August, $2.95/$4.95)*

Antarctic

Fans have enjoyed Ninja High School in black and white, Ninja High School in color--but this summer will offer them, for the first time, ***Ninja High School in 3-D***. The 32-page comic features the Ninja High School gang in satires of popular sf films. *(July, $3.50)* And if you want to see Ninja High School presented in a decidedly different style, take a look at ***Small Bodied Ninja High School #1,*** prepared in the tradition of Japanese manga and model kits (big heads, big eyes, little bodies). This is available in both a regular and a deluxe edition. *(August, $2.50/$4.95)*

Archie

Archie's latest ecologically-oriented superteam, The Conservation Corps, premieres in ***Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles Meets the Conservation Corps Special #1***, a 64-page one-shot by Castiglia, Nakrosis, and Allan. This double-sized special also includes pinups by Sergio Aragones, Stan Sakai, and tom McWeeney. *(July, $2.50)*

Response to ***Zen, Intergalactic Ninja*** the miniseries was so strong that Archie is rewarding Zen with his own ongoing series this season. ***Zen, Intergalactic Ninja Volume 2 #1,*** written by Steve Stern and illustrated by classic comic-art partners Ross Andru and Mike Esposito, features more environmentally-focused stories, along with the never-before-revealed origin of Zen. *(June, $1.25)*

Caliber

Deadworld: To Kill a King takes place after the slaughter of the zombies in ***Deadworld #26***; this three-issue miniseries continues the Dead-Killer storyline that began in ***Deadworld #19***. The battle between Dead-Killer and King Zombie moves to a travelling carnival in this series by Garrett and McCain. *(August, $2.95)*

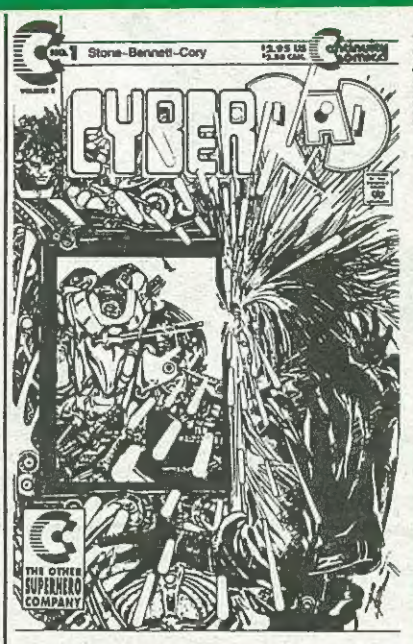
Kilroy Is Here is a moody, enigmatic series by Joe Pruett, focusing on a malevolent force that has preyed on humanity throughout the ages. Known as Kilroy, he seems inextricably drawn to war, famine, hunger, and death. Brian Bolland contributes the cover to ***Kilroy Is Here #1.*** *(August, $2.95)*

Krey is a science-fiction story about a young human raised as a slave by a warrior mutant race; eventually, though, he comes in contact with other human beings and is forced to choose sides in the war between the mutants, who have eventually accepted him as one of their own, and the human race. *(July, $2.50)*

Markam, a manga-inspired sf comic, revolves around a princess, Mirin, and her bodyguard, Markam, who find themselves transported through a dimensional portal into a land where a recurring demonic nightmare in their own world is not a dream at all, but is real--and deadly. *(June, $2.50)*

Shadowtown offers a provocative alternate future storyline; in Terence Anthony's creation, the southeastern United States has become the country of New Africa. Set forty years in the future, the story focuses on the frustrations of the youth of Shadowtown, while the country's leadership now find themselves threatened by an increasingly militant minority: the Native Americans, who are demanding recognition of their human rights. *(June, $2.50)*

Steel Angel is set in a world in which cybernetic implants are common-and Celia Westcott is glad that they are, because without the cybernetic suit that augments her underdeveloped arms and legs, her life would be far more limited. When the corporation that developed her cybersuit decides that they want it back, though, Celia decides to see just how powerful the suit is as she becomes the Steel Angel. *(July, $2.50)*



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Continuity

Ms. Mystic was one of the first independent superhero series; when it appeared a decade ago, its strongly environmental storyline was a relatively new trend in comics. Unfortunately, the series' bright future was dimmed a great deal by its horribly sporadic publication schedule; a gap of years between issues certainly made it difficult to keep up with plot-threads... Well, Continuity now promises that with the release of ***Ms. Mystic Volume 2 #1,*** the series will appear on a regular basis! The new creative team for Ms. Mystic is Dwayne Turner (artist of Cage) and Neal Adams; Peter Stone is the writer for this series (as well as most of Continuity's line). *(June, $2.50)*

Dark Horse

The film opened in May; in June, you can enjoy it in comics form courtesy of Steven Grant, Chris Taylor, and Rick Magyar. It, of course, is ***Alien3***. Ripley lands on a backward prison-colony, bringing an Alien with her. Alas, they have virtually no weaponry at all--and it looks like Ripley's battle with the Aliens has taken a turn for the worse. Dark Horse is publishing this miniseries biweekly this summer, meaning that fans will be able to enjoy the entire film adaptation in only a month. *(June-July, $2.50)*

Mark Verheiden's American returns after far too long an absence in ***The American:***

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Lost In America. In this four-issue miniseries, a reporter has a chance to become a core member of the governor's re-election campaign if he can only get an endorsement from The American; unfortunately, the American has joined a cult and disappeared! Chris Marrinan and Brian Garvey handle the art honors, while Dave Dorman supplies the cover. *(July-August, $2.50)*

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Nexus

Classics Illustrated may be in limbo, but at least there's an alternative: ***Dark Horse Classics*** and its companion series ***Modern Classics. Dark Horse Classics #1*** features a 48-page adaptation of ***The Last of the Mohicans*** (scheduled to hit the theaters in a new film adaptation at about the same time), while ***Modern Classics #1*** adapts Tom DeHaven's cult novel ***Freaks' Amour.*** *(July, $3.95@)*

Critical Error is the first color edition of a John Byrne comic book originally published in black and white in ***The Art of John Byrne.*** This science fiction story is totally wordless, giving fans more opportunities to enjoy Byrne's great linework. *(August, $2.50)*

Dark Horse Comics is a new anthology book a la ***Dark Horse Presents,*** but with a couple of differences. First, the focus here is on licensed properties; second, ***DHC*** will be published in full color. The first issue leads off with a Predator tale by Ian Edgington and Rick Leonardi; it also features a RoboCop story and "Renegade" by Chris Claremont and Vince Giarrano, which will lead into Claremont's ***Aliens Vs. Predator*** series. *(August, $2.50)*

Eddie Campbell's ***Deadface*** is back in an all-new four-issue series, Deadface: Earth, Water, Air, and Fire. Vinnie Bossanova against the Mafia? It's just one of many unusual developments that accompany Bacchus and Simpson's trip to Sicily. *(July-August, $2.50)*

Ash continues his battle with the evil dead in ***Evil Dead: Army of Darkness***, a miniseries adaptation of the upcoming Sam Raimi film. Raimi handles the comics adaptation himself, with artwork by ace artist John Bolton. *(July-August, $2.50)*

Godzilla Color Special #1 is a Japanese-monster tale in the classic tradition. The inhabitants of the island of Kurukai had always feared that the ancient demon imprisoned on their island might awaken–but when they find out that Godzilla is heading their way, they realize that releasing this demon might be their only hope for survival. Randy Stradley and Arthur Adams bring fans the big-monster blow-by-blow. *(August, $3.50)*

After far too long an absence, Grendel returns this season in an all-new ten-part limited series, ***Grendel: War Child.*** The story picks up years after the events of ***Grendel #40***. The heir to the throne of the Grendel-Khan has been kidnapped--but there's no ransom demand--for the kidnapper is Grendel! Matt Wagner is both writing and inking the series; Patrick McEown is the new penciller. *(August, $2.50)*

Soviet Union or no Soviet Union, there are still international forces capable of opposing James Bond--and he faces some of them in ***James Bond 007: Serpent's Tooth #1,*** a story that includes lost nuclear weapons, dinosaurs, and strange happenings in South America–and James Bond is right in the thick of things, trying to recover the lost arsenal before it should fall in the wrong hangs. The real highlight of ***Serpent's Tooth***, a three-issue limited series, is its creative team: Doug Moench and Paul Gulacy, creators who were born to do Bond! *(June-August, $4.95)*

At long last, Nexus returns to the comic shops this season--and it kicks off a cornucopia of Nexus projects that'll continue throughout the remainder of the year. ***Nexus: The Origin*** is a new 48-page prestige-format comic by creators Mike Baron and Steve Rude, re-presenting the origin of Nexus, along with some intriguing new developments that should surprise and entertain even the oldest Nexus fans. *(July,$4.95)* Debuting a month later, ***Nexus the Liberator*** is a new Stefan Petrucha/John Calimee miniseries that puts Nexus on the trail of a demi-god. (August, $2.50)

At last, this summer should see the release of ***RoboCop 3;*** whether the film makes it out in June or not, however, Dark Horse is determined that the premiere issue of its three-issue movie adaptation will! ***RoboCop 3,*** a bi-weekly adaptation written by Steven Grant and illustrated by Huang Nguyen and Art Nichols, pits RoboCop against OCP in a struggle that will determine the future existence of Detroit. *(June-July, $2.50)*

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Fans will have a choice of New ***Star Wars*** or ***Classic Star Wars,*** courtesy of Dark Horse; the publisher has acquired the rights to the Archie Goodwin-Al Williamson run on the newspaper series, and they'll publish them in color for the first time! Al Williamson has returned to redraw and extend panels on the strip art so as to make it fit into a comic-sized package, so this is totally unlike any other Star Wars reprint that's ever been published before. *(August, $2.50)*

The Thing From Another World left readers hanging--but ***The Thing: Climate of Fear*** picks up where the two-issue limited series left off. MacReady is on an Argentinian military base, unsure if the Thing is truly dead or not. Of course, since this series isn't entitled MacReady, you can guess what the answer to that question is... *(July-August, $2.50)*

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Batman Gothic

Vampirella: Transcending Time and Space is a 148-page trade paperback reprinting the Vampirella versus Dracula storyline from ***Vampirella #17-23***; Dave Stevens supplies the new cover. *(July, $12.95)*

Dark Zulu Lies

Motorbike Puppies #1 introduces a new, somewhat offbeat group of heroes who are the produce of a botched government experiment. At one time, their creators were ashamed of them–but now that they're all that stands in the way of the evil Lima Force, the Motorbike Puppies find themselves a bit more popular... *(June, $2.50)*

Third World is set in the year 2036, ten years after a massive war has brought about amazing changes on the planet. Earth survives the conflict–but life will never be quite the same! *(August, $2.50)*

DC

Batman returns to the theaters this summer–and quite unlike the situation of three years past, Batman will be returning to comic shops with a vengeance as well. All three established Batman titles--***Batman, Detective,*** and ***Legends of the Dark Knight***–go biweekly for a while this summer, as does the new Batman title, ***Batman: Shadow of the Bat***. This new series by Alan Grant and Norm Breyfogle kicks off with a story arc focusing on the renovated Arkham Asylum; from there, DC has a number of harder-edged stories planned. *(June-August, $1.25/$1.75@)*

Of course, if there's a new film, there must be a film adaptation, and DC has called on Dennis O'Neil, Steve Erwin, and Jose Luis Garcia-Lopez to handle the creative honors. ***Batman Returns*** will be released in both a prestige-format edition and a newsstand edition, which will feature a different cover. *(June, $5.95/$3.95)*

The Batman Gallery is a 32-page comic book sized collection that features many rare, classic, and never-before-seen pieces of Batman art from a variety of creators, including Adams, McFarlane, Perez, Zeck, Kubert, Robinson, Miller, and others. This book covers the entire panorama of Batman's fifty-plus year career. *(July, $2.95)*

Batman: Night Cries is a new fully painted hardcover graphic novel by Archie Goodwin and Scott Hampton; it's a somber look at the issue of child abuse. There are no super-villains here, no costumed threats--and none are needed as Batman must confront one of the grimmest threats that affects today's society. (August, $24.95)

Batman: Sword of Azrael, a new four-issue limited series by Dennis O'Neil, Joe Quesada, and Kevin Nowlan, introduces a new character into the Batman milieu. When Azrael, an enforcer for the semi-secret Order of Saint Dumas, is killed, his son travels to Europe to find out just what the Order is–and just who killed his father. Batman is also on the case--and inevitably, their paths cross. The first issue features a wraparound gatefold cover. *(August, $1.75)*

The Dark Knight Archives reprints the ultra-expensive Golden Age ***Batman #***s 1-4 in a single hardcover volume. This is a perfect companion to the ***Batman Archives*** series, which reprints the Batman adventures from ***Detective Comics.*** *(June, $39.95)*

You've enjoyed the Dark Knight, so hows-about some adventures of the Dark Mite? That's right: Bat-Mite returns in ***Legends of the Dark Knight #38***–and since Kevin O'Neill is supplies the art to accompany Alan Grant's story, you know this is going to be a really bizarre comic... *(August, $1.75)*

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Ambush Bug

Other Batman reprints include ***Batman/ Dracula: Red Rain***, a trade paperback reprinting the hit hardcover graphic novel from last winter, in which Doug Moench and Kelley Jones pit two bat-inspired characters against one another in an Elseworlds tale *(June, $9.95)*; ***Batman: Gothic,*** reprinting the five-issue Grant Morrison-Klaus Janson storyline from ***Legends of the Dark Knight #***s 6-10 *(June, $12.95)*; and ***Batman: Bride of the Demon*** softcover, an inexpensive reprinting of 1990's hit graphic novel *(September, $12.95).*

DC has quite a few non-Batman projects in store for the summer as well. ***Ambush Bug Nothing Special*** is a new 48-page Ambush Bug one-shot by Giffen, Fleming, and Gordon;

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The Darkstars

this time, Ambush Bug is on a job hunt, seeking sidekick status with heroes like Lobo, Death, Sandman, Aquaman, and others. He even pesters DC editor emeritus Julius Schwartz and offers his own Eclipso tie-in! *(July, $2.50)*

Darkstars is a new sf-adventure superteam that will premiere in their own book courtesy of Jan Michael Freedman and Larry Stroman. This series is fully linked with the DC Universe and is set in contemporary times, so it will feature crossovers by popular DC heroes like Green Lantern, Hawkman, and Flash. Their first mission brings them Earth, where they must stop intergalactic drug lords who intend to set up our planet as their next sales front. *(September, $1.75)*

The multi-book crossover series ***Eclipso: The Darkness Within*** kicked off with a double-length special in May; for the remainder of the summer, the storyline continues through virtually every DC Annual. The Eclipso-focused theme revolves around the raging potential for evil that lurks in everyone, even the most heroic beings--or, in some cases, their supporting cast. *(June-August, $2.50-$3.50@)*

Green Lantern and the Flash were a classic team in the Silver Age--and this summer, they become a classic team once again! ***Green Lantern #30*** kicks off a four-part story entitled "Gorilla Warfare"; the action continues into ***Flash #69***. Gorilla Grodd has started a revolution in Gorilla City, and it's up to Flash and Green Lantern to stop him. That's not the only problem, though: Hector Hammond is on the loose in Keystone City, keeping the Flash rather preoccupied. Detective Chimp and Rex the Wonder Dog guest star in this offbeat storyline. *(August, $1.25@)*

If you've ever struggled with computer problems, then you'll probably have a special spot in your comics-fan heart for ***The Hacker Files***, the new series by Lewis Shiner, Mark Buckingham, and Tom Sutton. Jack Marshall, a.k.a. Hacker, is the computer whiz of the DC Universe--and judging from the complexity of the virus that has infected virtually every computer in that fictitious world, his talents are going to be very much in demand. ***The Hacker Files*** has been described as a "high-tech Hellblazer," offering the same level of sophistication and complexity with a more technological slant. *(June-August, $1.95@)*

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New Titans 90

Hammerlocke, a nine-issue sf miniseries, focuses on a plan to sabotage the Starbridge, a wondrous elevator to Earth orbit; the only being who can stop the plan is the creator of the Starbridge, a man who has been rebuilt as the cyborg Hammerlocke. *(July-August, $2.50)*

He's a hero with the incredible ability to aggravate people. He's ***The Heckler,*** and what he lacks in ability, he makes up for in enthusiasm. ***The Heckler*** is the latest creation of Keith Giffen, who is just as serious about this as you might expect... *(July, $1.25)*

Iron Wolf, the Howard Chaykin science fantasy hero, is set to go back into action in a long-awaited hardcover graphic novel written by Chaykin and illustrated by Mike Mignola and P. Craig Russell. Iron Wolf's ship was destroyed--but since he's just awakened from suspended animation, he obviously didn't die in the devastation. Everything has changed while he was in a coma, though, giving him nothing to fight for--except vengeance. *(August, $29.95)*

The Justice Society is back! After events of the DC Crisis left these grand heroes wasting away in limbo for far too long, DC has finally brought ***The Justice Society of America*** back into the superhero spotlight. Now that the Justice Society is back, though, is there any need for them? That's the crucial question that ***Justice Society of America #1*** explores, courtesy of Len Strazewski, Mike Parobeck, and Mike Machlan. *(July, $1.25)*

Lobo has a busy summer in store: first, he stars in a new one-shot, then a new miniseries! ***Lobo: Blazing Chain of Love*** has Lobo the bountyhunter hot on the trail of a female target who has hidden out in the largest harem in the galaxy; it's a dangerous job, but someone has to do it--and you know it'll be Lobo! Giffen, Grant, and Cowan mastermind the hijinks. *(July, $1.50)* A month later, ***Lobo: Infanticide*** presents a concept we never expected: Lobo in the army! It's a scheme by some of his illegitimate children to wipe out dear ol' dad forever. Keith Giffen, co-writer of every Lobo series thus far, handles the art honors himself in this four-issue limited series. *(August, $1.50)* And for Lobo fans with a lot of money, there' the ***Lobo Limited Edition Statue***, produced exactly to orders. It won't be available until November, but you'll need to order it pronto to be sure you get one... *(November, $129.95)*

Martian Manhunter: American Secrets, a new three-issue limited series, offers a new look at the Manhunter's early days on Earth. Arriving on a planet gripped by the 1950's "Red scare," the Martian Manhunter finds himself enmeshed in a struggle against organized crime and alien invasion. Gerard Jones and Eduardo Barreto retell the early days of DC's first original Silver Age hero. *(August, $4.95)*

There are big changes in store in ***The New Titans*** this summer; for one thing, Donna Troy's baby will arrive before the season is over. For another, one of the Titans turns out to be a traitor. The really big event, though, is the introduction of a new Titans comic, Team Titans. The plot thickens in ***New Titans #89,*** really starts to simmer in ***New Titans #90***, and comes to a boil in ***Team Titans #1***. Forget about multiple covers; this comic has multiple comics! There are five different versions of the premiere issue, each featuring a totally different lead origin story focusing on one of the five Team Titans members. The backup story may be the same, but for your money, you're getting a book-length original story in each edition--it's like having five separate comics released in one month, with a common bonus backup tale in each! *(DC, June-August for New Titans, July-August for Team Titans; $1.75@)*

A classic Charlton hero returns in a new series this summer: ***Peter Cannon: Thunderbolt #1*** reintroduces the costumed hero five years after his retirement from superheroing. His new base of operations is England, and he's much more reluctant to use his hero abilities--but since he has his own comic, you can be sure he'll eventually answer the superhero call. Michael Collins, a popular contributor to ***2000 A.D.***, is the writer and penciller for the new series. *(July-August, $1.25@)*

Robin Annual #1, an Eclipso: Darkness Within tie-in, pits Robin against Anarky. Anarky has come into possession of one of Eclipso's black diamonds and hopes to use it to benefit the common man--but you know that Eclipso will have none of that!... *(July, $2.50)*

Sgt. Rock Special #1 contains a real surprise: a never-before-seen Sgt. Rock tale by Robert Kanigher and Joe Kubert! Walt Simonson supplies the painted cover, while the interiors include stories by Truman, Russell, Golden, Pratt, Snyder, and Wagner. *(September, $2.95)*

We teased you with news about this book last winter--but this time, there's no tease. At last, the Chris Claremont-Adam Hughes-Karl Story Star Trek graphic novel ***Debt of Honor*** is ready for release! This grand hardcover explores James Kirk's entire career in a storyline that begins in his days as a lieutenant and ends in the last days of his captainship. ***Debt of Honor*** is a must-have for any Star Trek fan. *(July, $24.95)*

Superman Special #1 features the Walt Simonson story originally slated for various ***Superman Annuals*** in the past two years; at last, it's ready to go. This tale pits Superman against Lex Luthor I (before his death, of course) and a duplicate Man of Steel made of living sand. *(September, $3.50)*

DC has an impressive array of trade paper backs ready to entertain you on those lazy summer days, including ***Cosmic Odyssey***, reprinting the entire Jim Starlin-Mike Mignola storyline that pitted virtually the entire DC pantheon against Darkseid *(July, $19.95)*; ***Hellblazer: Original Sins***, reprinting the first nine issues of the exploits of John Constantine, complete with a new Dave McKean cover painting *(August, $19.95)*; ***Sandman: Seasons of Mist,*** reprinting ***Sandman #22-28*** *(August, $19.95--also available as a $29.95 hardcover)*; and ***Star Trek: The Modala Imperative,*** reprinting the entire eight-issue series that spanned the gap between ***Classic Trek*** and ***Star Trek: Next Generation*** *(August, $19.95)*.

Disney

Disney Comics Special: Donald and Scrooge features 96 pages of great Don Rosa duck tales, including the stunning "Return to Xanadu." *(August, $8.95)*

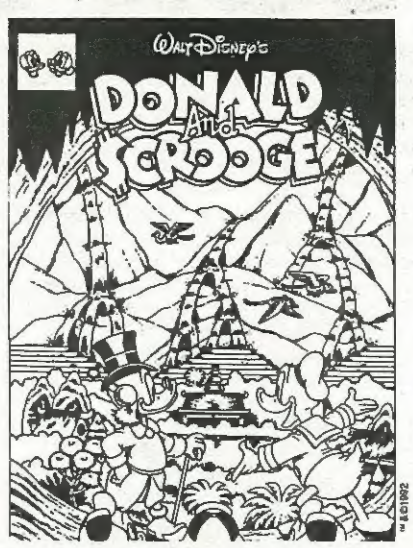
Beauty and the Beast presents tales that precede the events of Disney's hit film; it features three short tales, one focusing on Mrs. Potts, one on Belle, and one on the Beast himself. *(July, $1.50)*

Eclipse

Eclipse has latched onto a surefire way to create hit comics: satirize other people's hit comics! This summer, they do just that with ***The Blandman #1,*** a book that pokes fun at DC's entire line of British-written--and somewhat offbeat--comics like Doom Patrol,Sandman, Shade, and Hellblazer. Hey, it worked for X-Farce!... *(June, $2.50)*

Clive Barker's Dread is a horrifying psychological drama brought to comics by Fred Burke and Dan brereton. Quaid is fascinated by terror, so he concocts experiments in fear to see what horrifies others--and ultimately, to discover what lies at the core of his own fear. *(August, $8.95/$24.95 HC)*

Fx Comics, a new line of Eclipse comics that hopes to capture the feel of action-adventure films, kicks off with



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three titles. ***Blood Is the Harvest #1*** presents a world in which vampires have developed a tremendous power base and worldwide connections that enable them to keep their activities out of the limelight--until a trio of adventurers attack the vampires to avenge the death of a reporter. ***Parts Unknown #1*** is a science fiction tale about an alien breeding experiment on earth; the aliens are using human females to replace the females of their own race. ***The Retaliator*** is a grim 'n' gritty hero tale about a former child abuse victim who has grown up to become a defender and avenger of abused children everywhere. *(July, $2.50@)*

Eclipse has a line of ***Hellraiser trading cards*** ready to amuse Clive Barker fans this summer; the cards feature images from all three Hellraiser films, plus randomly inserted Pinhead hologram cards and Clive Barker autographed cards. *($1.25 per pack)*

Summer's a great season for spiders--particularly if the Spider in question is the pulp hero whose first comic book series was a sleeper hit. ***The Spider: Reign of the Vampire King*** is loosely based on a 1933 Spider pulp adventure, and it introduces a group of supervillains who are powerful enough to challenge The Spider. Tim Truman and Enrique Alcatena, the creators of the first ***Spider*** series, are back again for more hard-edged pulp fun. *(June-Aug, $4.95@)*

After focusing on book-length Clive Barker adaptations for a while, Eclipse returns to the anthology format with ***Tapping the Vein #5***. Steve Niles and Tim Conrad adapt "Down Satan," the tale of a man who turns to Satan, not God, for his salvation; Fred Burke and Hector Gomez adapt "How Spoilers Bleed," the story of the macabre fate of three

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FX Comics' *Parts Unknown*

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adventurers who head into the South American rain forests looking for fortune. *(June, $7.95)*

Eternity

Captain Harlock: Fall of the Empire #1 kicks off a new Gibson-Eldred Harlock miniseries that takes place after the apparent defeat of the Illumidas. But are the aliens truly wiped out–or are they readying a final all-out attack? ***Fall of the Empire*** also includes an original Robotech serial in every issue. *(July-August, $2.50)*

Ninja High School has been such a successful black and white series that Eternity has decided to reward the book's fans with color editions of its first five issues. ***Ninja High School In Color*** reprints those Ben Dunn issues, complete with new covers, in the same format as the ***Ninja High School: Prom Formula*** miniseries. *(June-August, $1.95@)*

Fantaco

Collector-investor-speculators are the target of some sharp-witted humor in ***The Comics Enquirer.*** This publication pokes fun at the entire speculation market with such stories as "I Turned $2 into $20,000,000 at the Sotheby's Comics Auction–and so can you!..." and a get-rich-quick-with-price-guides piece. *(July, $2.50)*

Fantagraphics

Fantagraphics explores the unauthorized biography field this summer, kicking off their new ***Fantagraphics Legends*** series with The Six Three Stooges. Moe, Larry, Curly, Shemp, Curly Joe, and Joe–the behind-the-scenes stories of all six Stooges are featured in the 24-page premiere issue; Elvis Presley is the focus of ***Fantagraphics Legends #2.*** *(June-July, $2.25)*

Feiffer: The Collected Works Volume III focuses on the late 1950's, a turning point in Feiffer's career. It includes the first two years of "Sick,Sick, Sick," the ***Village Voice*** strip that made Feiffer a cartooning celebrity. *(July, $10.95; also available as a $35 hardcover and a $40 signed limited edition)*

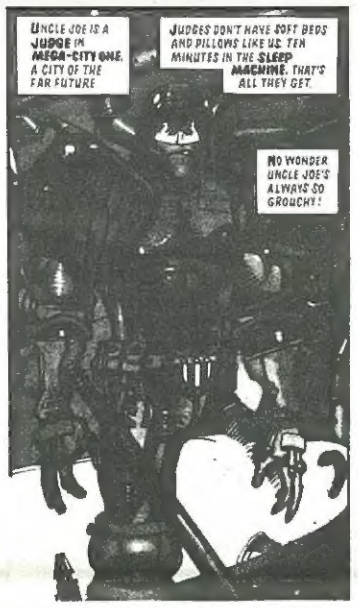
The Love and Rockets Sketchbook Volume Two features another look into the sketchbooks of the Hernandez Bros.; included are several finished sequences that were edited out of the continuity at the last minute. *(July, $19.95; also available as a $39.95 hardcover)* Fantagraphics also has a set of 36 ***Love and Rockets Trading Cards*** ready for summer release. *(August, $12.95)*

Stan Sakai has made his ***Usagi Yojimbo Color Specials*** an annual summer event; ***Usagi Yojimbo Color Special #3*** features a Usagi story, a Groundthumper and Hermy chapter, and a story featuring Space Usagi, the hero of a new Sakai series from Mirage. *(July, $3.50)*

Fantagraphics leaps into the field of comics parody with ***Wildbrats,*** a satire of Jim Lee's ***WildC.A.T.s*** and the entire Image Comics phenomenon. As you might expect from Fantagraphics, the satire isn't exactly *gentle...* (July, $2.50)

Felix Comics

Felix the Cat, the classic comic and cartoon star, returns in a series of comics offering both new and old Felix adventures. For those who want the original material, there's ***Classic Felix***; fans who are interested in new adventures of Felix will find them in ***Felix the Cat and Friends.*** *(August, $2.25@)* ***Felix the Cat: The Movie*** is a special 48-page album-sized one-shot featuring artwork taken from the Felix video released by Buena Vista Home Video. *(August, $4.95)*


UNCLE JOE IS A JUDGE IN MEGA-CITY ONE, A CITY OF THE FAR FUTURE
JUDGES DON'T HAVE SOFT BEDS AND PILLOWS LIKE US. TEN MINUTES IN THE SLEEP MACHINE. THAT'S ALL THEY GET.
NO WONDER UNCLE JOE'S ALWAYS SO GROUCHY!
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Dredd Rules

Fleetway-Quality

Dredd Rules #10 is a must-have for fans of quality comics art; it features the first new Dredd story by fan favorite Simon Bisley! Bisley will continue to contribute to this series for the foreseeable future, meaning that many Lobo collectors will have another must-have title to add to their collecting list. *(July, $2.95)* True Bisley aficionados will also want the ***Dredd Rules Poster*** that reproduces Bisley's cover to ***Dredd Rules #10*** *(August, $6.95).*

Japanese airbrush artist Sorayama, whose work appears in ***Sexy Robot Volumes One*** and ***Two,*** graduates into the high-quality poster field this summer. Each Sorayama poster features a sensual robo-femme printed in detail on heavy-stock glossy paper. *(June-August, $19.95)*

Friendly-Personality

This seems to be the summer for satire, and Friendly/Personality isn't going to miss out: ***Spoof Comics*** targets a different hot book each month, beginning with SpiderFemme, a satire of...well, do we have to tell you? The second issue targets Valiant Comics' Unity storyline with Imp-Unity, while the third issue features Wolverbroad, a sexist parody of Wolverine. *(June-August, $2.95)*

Gladstone

The two-volume ***Carl Barks Library of One-Pagers*** collects all the one-page gag strips that Barks did for ***Uncle Scrooge*** #s 1-61; that's over a hundred pages spotlighting the all-but-forgotten comics art of single-page gags! *(July-August, $8.95@)*

Global

Everyone knows of the legend of Robin Hood, but what of his protege, Blue Arrow? You'll meet him in ***The Adventures of Blue Arrow #1,*** a medieval fantasy inspired by the Robin Hood tradition. There are Arthurian references as well in this new adventure series. *(August, $2.25)*

Harvey Comics

It's Hanna-Barbera Time! Harvey is expanding its line with a number of books, including several based on H-B's most popular cartoons. ***Hanna-Barbera Giant Size #1, Jetsons Giant Size #1, Flintstones Giant Size #1,*** and ***Scooby Doo Giant Size #1*** all feature 48-pages of story and art with new adventures of these ever-popular characters. *(June-August, $2.25)*

Hero

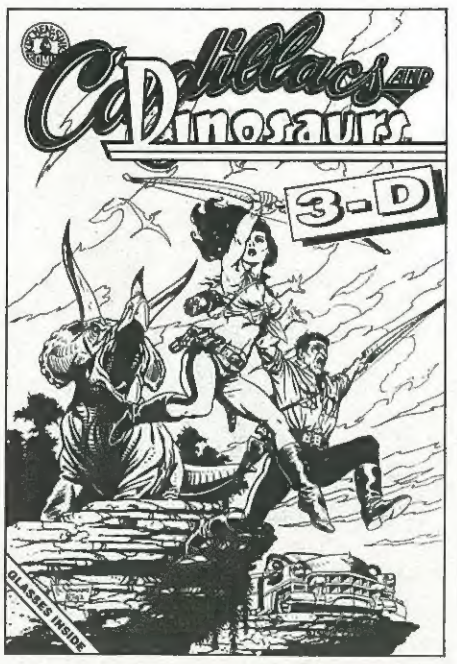
Captain Thunder, originally promised for winter revival, will definitely hit the comic shops this summer; the miniseries picks up where the original series left off, wrapping up the storyline of Captain Thunder and Blue Bolt and their search for the truth behind Captain Thunder's frame-up. *(June, $3.50)*

Innovation

If you're going for a summer evening stroll, be careful when you approach ***Avenue X. Avenue X*** is the story of a teenage girl who was bitten by a vampire in New York City; now she lives in the shadowy punk culture of the Big Apple. This comic series is based on a radio serial broadcast by WBAI radio in New York; Brenda Black, ***Avenue X's*** creator, also writes the comic book. *(August, $2.50)*

Fans have been asking when ***Hero Alliance*** would be coming back, and at last Innovation has an answer for them. ***The Hero Alliance Special,*** a summer release, is a transitional book paving the way for the return of ***Hero Alliance*** later on this year. In this special, everyone gets new costumes and a new headquarters, and some new British heroes are introduced. *(July, $2.50)*

Ready for an Innovative horror series? Then you'll want to latch onto ***J.N. Williamson's Masques,*** a prestige-format anthology series featuring comics adaptations of stories by some of horror's finest writers, including Robert McCammon and Stephen King. Covers feature art by such prominent talents as Boris Vallejo and Olivia de Berardinis. *(June-August, $4.95)*



Kitchen Sink

Cadillacs and Dinosaurs 3-D #1 features two early *Xenozoic Tales* stories, all reprocessed in 3-D by Roger May. 3-D Glasses are bound into each issue. *(July, $3.95)*

Many of comics' masters have retired from the field--but thankfully, Will Eisner isn't one of them. This summer, Eisner returns with a graphic novel in three parts, each affordably priced so that every Eisner fan can afford the entire novel. The series examines the anonymity and isolation of life in the big city, beginning with ***Invisible People: Sanctum,*** the story of a man whose erroneous obituary leads to his isolation from his own world–an isolation that he at first desired, but now loathes. *(June, $3.95)* The second installment, ***Invisible People: The Power,*** tells the tale of Morris, born with the power to heal--and with a weakness for liquor. *(August, $3.95)*

It sounds like a horror film, but it's all too true! ***Republicans Attack!*** is a new trading card set that features George, Dan, and the rest of the Republican gang in a vitriolically-satirical 36-card set by James Vance and Mark Landman. *(July, $10.95)*

Malibu

Brigade is the first ***Youngblood*** spin-off in the growing Image line of comics; written and illustrated by Marat Mychaels and Hank Kanalz, it introduces the rebels of the Image universe. Privately funded and led by a former member of Youngblood, Brigade operates without government approval or support. *(July, $1.95)*

Marc Silvestri, whose work has appeared in ***X-Men*** and ***Wolverine,*** offers his entry in the Image Universe this summer. ***CyberForce*** is a band of cybernetically enhanced mutants created by CyberData Corporation to do their dirty work--but before too long, the team turns against their creators and decides to use their power for good. *(August, $1.95)*

Extreme: The Art of Rob Liefeld was originally scheduled for winter release, but production problems has pushed it back into the middle of the summer. Extreme features lots of behind-the-scenes material on Youngblood as well as a look at Rob Liefeld's sketchbook material. *(August, $4.95)*

Wildbrats

WILDC.A.T.S.

CSN Summer Preview

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The Savage Dragon

The Protectors isn't one an Image title, but it *is* a superhero book featuring Malibu's newest super-team. Set in its own universe, the Protectors tells the story of a group of superheroes officially sanctioned by the President; they operate in a time when supernormal activity has been outlawed, so they have to work under government restrictions–but their adversaries aren't so limited! *(August, $2.50)*

The Savage Dragon #1 introduces Erik Larsen's new big green mystery guy, the Dragon. No one knows where he came from, but the police department knows where he's going: straight into the center of the most crime-ridden areas of Chicago, where he becomes a one-man SWAT team determined to restore justice. Malibu is including four different bound-in posters in the first issue, equally distributed throughout the print run of the book. *(June, $1.95)*

Jim Valentino, well known for his work on Guardians of the Galaxy, brings some mystery into the Image Universe with ***Shadowhawk.*** A brutal, no-holds-barred hero along the lines of Wolverine or the Punisher, Shadowhawk always gets results in his war on crime–but he also leaves behind a swath of corpses! The New York police would like to bring him in–but he's too busy saving the city from muggers, rapists, thieves, and the occasional supervillain to try to deal with the NYPD, too!... *(August, $1.95)*

Jim Lee (with writing assistance from Brandon Choi) is the creator of ***WildC.A.T.s,*** a new team of superheroes operating in the Image Universe–superheroes who are caught in the middle of a battle for Earth's future. Alien races have different plans for mankind; WildC.A.T.s have allied themselves with those who hope to preserve the planet. *(July, $1.95)*

Image Comics fans will also want to keep an eye out for the Image Coupons appearing in seven of Image's August titles (***Cyberforce #1, Shadowhawk #1, Youngblood #0, Brigade #2, WildCATs #2, Savage Dragon #3,*** and ***Spawn #4***). Collect all seven coupons and you can redeem them for a copy of the ultra-limited ***Image Comics #0***, featuring short stories by Larsen, Lee, Liefeld, McFarlane, Silvestri, and Valentino.

Tarzan: Love, Lies, and the Lost City is a new three-issue Tarzan limited series featuring stories written by Walt Simonson and Matt Wagner. The "Opar" storyline is serialized throughout the three-issue run, with different back-up Tarzan stories completing the book's 48 pages. *(August, $3.95)*

Marvel

Alien Legion: Grimrod stars the most popular of all the Legionnaires, Jugger Grimrod, in a story that takes him to a supposed planet paradise that turns out to be a desolate hung of rock whose Legion outpost is falling apart. *(August, $5.95)*

The third time's the charm--particularly when it comes to Spider-Man hologram issues. ***Amazing Spider-Man #365***, the third hologram Spidey book, features eighty pages of Spidey adventures, including his origin as retold by Peter Parker himself; pin-ups and other material by many of Spider-Man's greatest creators; and a lead tale that features Spider-Man in action against the Lizard, courtesy of ace Spidey creators David Michelinie and Mark Bagley. *(June, $3.95)*

Bloodlines: A Tale From the Heart of Africa joins Marvel's summertime line-up; this prestige-format one-shot picks up where the last Heart of Africa story, ***The Temporary Natives***, left off. Bloodlines is the latest in a complex, insightful series about Cathy Grant's Peace Corps experiences in Central Africa, co-written by someone who was actually there. *(August, $5.95)*

No mutant fan will want to be without Cable this summer--and we're not talking about teevee here! ***Cable*** is a new two-part limited series written by Fabian Nicieza and illustrated by John Romita Jr. and Dan Green. This new series pits Cable against Stryfe and Canada's current "Weapon X," and it paves the way for this fall-s upcoming mutant title crossover storyline. *(August, $2.50)*

"Dead Man's Hand" is a storyline running through ***Daredevil, Nomad,*** and ***Punisher War Journal*** this summer; in this nine-part crossover story, all three heroes find themselves in Las Vegas at the same time as organized crime cartels "debate" the future of the underworld (and its leadership) now that Kingpin has lost control. Terror (of Terror Inc.) makes a guest appearance in this storyline as well. *(June-August, $1.25-$1.75@)*

Darkhold is a new supernatural thriller that kicks off as a pat of the "Rise of the Midnight Sons" storyline; the Darkhold Redeemers are a rather motley crew of supernatural adventurers brought together to try to stop the re-formation of the deadly occult book known as The Darkhold. The first issue, a 48-pager, is polybagged with a special poster by Andy and Adam Kubert. *(August, $2.75)*

Digitek is the latest Marvel UK title, tying in with the other UK books. Digitek is a computer warrior whose sole purpose is the stop Mys-Tech from carrying out their plans--plans that resulted in the death of scientist Jonathan Bryant and his transformation into Digitek! *(July, $1.95)*

Okay, so ***Fish Police*** wasn't the television hit that everyone had hoped it would be--that doesn't mean that it isn't a great comic book! Marvel reminds everyone just how good Steve Moncuse's original ***Fish Police*** comics were when they begin reprinting the entire run this summer--and as an added bonus, they're publishing the material in full color for the first time ever! *(August, $1.25)*

It's going to be a horrifying summer at Marvel, at least in the Ghost Rider family of books. ***Ghost Rider #28*** begins a six-part storyline, Rise of the Midnight Sons, that will continue into a variety of horror-oriented premiere issues, including ***Spirits of Vengeance, Morbius,*** and ***Darkhold***. By the time everything wraps up at the end of the summer, there'll be an entire Ghost Rider sub-universe to keep horror fans happy. *(June-August, $2.50@)*

Speaking of Ghost Rider, there's also a ***Ghost Rider/Cable Special*** slated for summer release; this 72-page storyline, reprinted from ***Marvel Comics Presents #s 90-98,*** brings the two popular heroes together to face the Grateful Undead. *(July, $3.95)*

Hellraiser III: Hell On Earth adapts the latest Clive Barker-inspired Hellraiser film; Peter Atkins, the screenwriter for the film, is handling his own adaptation, but he is including some scenes that didn't make the final edit of the film. Pinhead, the leader of the Cenobites, turns against Leviathan and creates his own personal Hell... *(August, $4.95)*

The Hulk's nemesis, the Leader, returns in ***Incredible Hulk #397;*** this four-part storyline continues into the celebration issue ***Incredible Hulk #400***. The U-Foes are back as well, launching an attack on the Pantheon's home, the Mount, in order to steal their technology for the Leader. *(July-August, $1.25)*

Infinity War continues through dozens of Marvel books this summer, but the core storyline appears, naturally, in ***Infinity War*** the miniseries, written by Jim Starlin and illustrated by Ron Lim. It's almost the entire Marvel Universe versus an unknown power who is creating evil doppelgangers of the mightiest heroes--just the sort of action that sells crossover series! *(June-August, $2.50@)*

There isn't much to say about the ***Marvel 1992 Swimsuit Special*** except that it's just what the name implies and that it features art by fan-favorites like Jim Lee, Rob Liefeld, Whilce Portacio, Larry Stroman, George Perez, Dale Keown, Alan Davis, Adam Hughes, Andy Kubert, and John Romita Jr. With talents like that, do we really need to say anything else?... *(June, $3.95)*

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Morbius

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Amazing Spider-Man 366

Now that ***Akira*** has all but finished up its run, fans of creator Katsuhiro Otomo are probably wondering where to turn for more Otomo material. Worry not, because Marvel is collecting Otomo's non-***Akira*** work into a series of one-shot publications. ***Memories*** is the story of three space adventurers whose seemingly innocent mission takes a more deadly turn when they discover a space station whose human inhabitant is dead--but the station continues to operate as if it is waiting for new human occupants... *(August, $2.50)*

Ted McKeever's ***Metropol*** is back in a new three-issue limited series, ***Metropol A.D. #1.*** Picking up a year after the events of Metropol, this series is a much faster-paced, harder-hitting story, presenting an epic confrontation between the forces of good and evil for control of the city. *(August, $3.50)*

Shang-Chi, the Master of Kung Fu returns in ***Moon Knight Special #1,*** a 48-page oneshot by Doug Moench, and Art Nichols. The two heroes unite to recover the "Stolen Spirits" from Mordillo Island–and it's a good thing they do, because the deadly opponents they face might be too much for either hero individually! *(August, $2.50)*

Morbius, The Living Vampire ties in with the Ghost Rider storyline "Rise of the Midnight Sons"; in his incarnation as a hero, Morbius targets the predatory criminals of the city to quench his bloodthirst. Len Kaminski, Ron Wagner, and Mike Witherby present the urban excitement; the first issue guest stars Ghost Rider and Johnny Blaze. *(July-August; $2.75 for the first issue, $1.75 afterwards)*

Popular New Warrior ***Night Thrasher*** gets his own limited series, spinning off from the events of ***New Warriors #25.*** Complete with new armor, Night Thrasher is on the trail of Chord, who is the only hope for salvation that the Taylor Foundation has--but he's been kidnapped and may soon die. Fabian Nicieza, ***New Warriors*** writer par excellence, is joined by artist Dave Hoover for this miniseries; Mark Bagley supplies the covers. *(August, $2)*

Onyx Overlord, written by Moebius and Jean-Marc Lofficier and illustrated by Jerry Bingham, is a sequel to Moebius' ***Airtight Garage***; in this four-issue limited series, P.I. Finegar discovers a plot to breach the barrier protecting her world from the Onyx Overlord, a construct controlled by Famechon Plikan. Plikan intends to use the Onyx Overlord to destroy the city and enslave its populace. *(August, $2.75)*

Punisher and Captain America: Blood and Glory, the three-issue prestige-format limited series by Dan Chichester, Margarate Clark, and Klaus Janson, has been pushed back from its initially-scheduled spring release to late summer–but the action is just as hard-hitting and exciting! *(August, $5.95)*

Sam and Max, the dog and rabbit freelance police agents, are back in the ***Sam and Max Color Collection***, a 64-page antholo-

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Ghost Rider 29

gy featuring early Sam and Max tales (published in color for the first time) and a new adventure, all written and drawn by creator Steve Purcell. *(July, $4.95)*

Spider-Man #26 is the final hologram-clad Spider-Man celebration issue; the lead story retells Spider-Man's origin (courtesy of Tom DeFalco, Ron Frenz, and Erik Larsen); Mark Bagley supplies a second feature explaining the nature of Spider-Man's powers. *(July, $3.50)* Following that, Don MacGregor and Marshall Rogers offer a two-part story that involves Spider-Man with a group of street kids. *(August-September, $1.75@)*

One book that no Spidey-fan will want to miss is ***Spider-Man: Soul of the Hunter.*** This 48-page prestige format special by J.M. DeMatteis, Mike Zeck, and Bob McLeod is a sequel to ***Kraven's Last Hunt;*** Kraven's soul wasn't properly put to rest, so it still haunts Spider-Man, leading to a final confrontation between with Kraven's decaying corpse! *(August, $5.95)*

When you see the name William Shatner, it's only natural to think of ***Star Trek***–but Marvel is confident that fans will soon be thinking of ***Tekworld,*** the new comics series based on Shatner's two successful science fiction novels. ***Tekworld*** is the story of Jake Cardigan, a former cop turned private eye who is involved with a drug war against an addictive brain stimulant called Tek. Jake is searching for the Tek dealers who framed him and sent him into suspended animation–but he also has to overcome his own Tek addiction! *(July, $1.75)*

Marvel's trade paperback and hardcover reprint offerings for the summer include ***Cable,*** a 176-page volume reprinting ***New Mutants #87-94,*** the first appearances of Cable as presented by Louise Simonson and Rob Liefeld *(July, $15.95)*; ***Boys' Ranch***, the hardcover originally scheduled for last winter, reprinting the entire run of this Simon and Kirby adventure classic *(July, $39.95)*;; and ***Infinity Gauntlet,*** reprinting last year's six-issue limited series, which features great art by George Perez and Ron Lim *(August, $19.95).*

Wolverine stars in a new prestige-format "annual" by Ann Nocenti and Mark Texeira. ***Evolution*** pits Logan finds Logan investigating strange happenings at a nuclear reactor--happenings that involve an ancient Indian legend. *(August, $5.95)*

Millennium

Millennium's latest Doc Savage miniseries, ***The Devil's Thoughts***, pits a young Clark Savage Jr. against the Hanoi Shan, who hopes to bring Shiva the Destroyer back into the world. This three-issue series by Moore, Stiles, and DeLay features Doc Savage in a storyline set two years before the first Doc Savage pulp. *(June-August, $2.50@)*

Not only does Doc Savage have a new miniseries lined up for the summer, but so does his cousin. ***Pat Savage, Woman of Bronze Special*** features art by Adam Hughes, Brian Stelfreeze, Darryl Banks, and Joe Phillips; the story presents Pat Savage's first solo adventure as she takes on the mob. *(July, $2.50)*

Mirage

It's going to be an Eastman and Laird summer, and that's bound to be good news for TMNT fans. Eastman and Laird return to their most famous creations beginning with ***Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles #48***, when they begin scripting the series again; with ***Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles #50,*** the duo is back as writers and artists, beginning a thirteen part story that picks up where the last Eastman and Laird story left off. *(June-August, $2@)* Fans who weren't around when the Turtles first appeared will be able to relive that event when Mirage releases ***Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles #1*** in a special 64-page softcover edition with an introduction by Harlan Ellison. *(August, $5.95)* For fans who want more than just the first issue, there's ***The Collected Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles #1,*** reprinting ***TMNT*** #1-11 and all four microseries in one 500+page volume *(July $16.95).* Fans with a bigger budget might want to reserve the limited-edition ***Leonardo Bust,*** sculpted by A.C. Farley. *(August, $75)*

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Doc Savage

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Space Usagi 3

Rabbits in spaaaace... ***Space Usagi #1,*** a ***Usagi Yojimbo*** spin-off, is a Stan Sakai miniseries about a descendant of Usagi Yojimbo, who finds himself caught up in an intergalactic power struggle. *(June-August, $2)*

NBM

The Ray Bradbury Chronicles is being released in trade paperback from Bantam/Spectra, but NBM is offering the series in hardcover to comic shops. Each volume features eighty pages of Ray Bradbury comics adaptations, including a re-colored EC Bradbury reprint, for $22.95. The real collectible, though, is the signed and numbered hardcover edition signed by virtually the entire creative team, including Bradbury himself. *(June-August, $22.95/$40)*

Now

We're off to see the Lizard!... Mr. Lizard, one of the more popular members of Ralph Snart's supporting cast, earns his own special this summer. ***Mr. Lizard Special #1*** looks back on the rowdy reptile's freshman year of college; there's also a four-page Mr. Lizard origin story. Each copy is polybagged with a color Mr. Lizard button. *(June, $3.50)*

Speaking of Ralph Snart, his fans will get an in-depth look at him in August, when ***Ralph Snart 3-D Special #1*** hits the stands. A free pair of 3-D glasses is polybagged with each issue. *(August, $2.95)* Ralph also earns a trade paperback reprinting ***Ralph Snart Adventures Volume 2 #s 1-3.*** *(August, $7.95)*

Speed Racer's return continues through the summer–and fans can look forward to the return of Speed's older brother, Racer-X, who joins forces with Speed, Pops, Trixie, and Sparky to rescue the Mach V and stop those who want to steal Pops' plans for the Mach VI. *(June-August, $2.50)*

Universal Soldier, the upcoming film co-starring Jean-Claude Van Damme and Dolph Lundgren, becomes a comic book (or more specifically, two comic book) miniseries courtesy of McElroy, Fox, and Villagran. ***Universal Soldier*** is the story of a secret government project to bring dead soldiers back to life as a zombie-like army. Now is issuing this book in two different editions, one for an all-ages audience and one for mature readers. *(July-August, $1.95/$2.50)*

Rebel

Faust fans will be glad to hear that not only is ***Faust Act Nine*** on schedule for August *($2.25),* but that Rebel also has a set of ***Faust Trading Cards*** coming up this summer as well! The cards, all featuring Tim Vigil's graphic art, are packaged in a black collector's box. *(August, $10.95)*

Sky

Sky enters the anthology-comics field with ***Sky Comics Presents Monthly;*** each issue features four stories by different creators, some of which may later graduate into their own Sky Comics series. Two of the stories in the premiere issue have a superhero slant, while the others are more science fiction/fantasy oriented. *(June-August, $2.50)*

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Sting of the Green Hornet

Slave Labor

Dr. Radium has a big summer planned; not only will he return in an all-new series of science-filled tales entitled ***Dr. Radium: Man of Science,*** but he'll also "host" ***Dr. Radium's Mad Science Trading Card Set,*** a 40-card set that features real crazy scientists and their zany theories. *(August, $2.50 for Dr. Radium: Man of Science, $10.95 for Dr. Radium's Mad Science Trading Card Set)*

Scott Saavedra, who has had more than a little experience presenting exciting anthropomorphic adventures as the creator of Disney's Rescue Rangers comic, has a new "funny animal" series on line for the summer: ***Rats!*** The Rats are good guys who do battle with, among others, Baron Molehang, the self-proclaimed prince of crime. *(June-August, $2.50)*

Jeff Kear's tragic story of the abuse suffered by the Nez Perce Indians in the late 1800's is presented in its entirety in the trade paperback

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Relentless Pursuit. The graphic novel chronicles the Indians' struggle against the American policy of Manifest Destiny–a struggle they had no chance of winning... *(June, $8.95)*

Tales From the Heart, the story of a Peace Corps volunteer in central Africa, has been featured in a couple of Epic Comics one-shots (including one coming out this summer), but the series is also appearing from its original publisher, Slave Labor. ***Tales From the Heart #9,*** containing all-new stories, also features a cover by Chas Truog. *(August, $2.95)*

Sun

Sun Comics jumps into the manga field with two new series, ***Raika*** *(July-August, $2.50)* and ***Ragnarok Guy*** *(August, $2.50).* ***Raika*** is a grand story of courtly intrigue and suspense by Terashima and Fujiwara; it will be published weekly. ***Ragnarok Guy*** is a science fiction story about a hero whose name is Guy Graybird, but whose incredible combat skills have earned him the nickname Ragnarok Guy. The Melder Federation wants him dead--but they aren't saying why. ***Ragnarok Guy*** is scheduled for biweekly publication.

The Maximortal

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Take Twelve Productions

"Soon to be a minor Major Motion Picture!" That's the slogan for ***Wonderguy,*** based on a film scheduled for release later this year. It's the story of a loser who gets superpowers–but does that stop him from being a loser? Sururi Gumen, who was the ghost artist for Kerry Drake, illustrates this adaptation; there are also behind-the-scenes photos and more. *(July, $6.50)*

Tundra

If you missed out on ***Bratpack*** when the miniseries debuted, you can enjoy the whole series in one handsome volume now. ***The Bratpack Collected Edition*** features all five issue's of Rick Veitch's revisionist-superhero look at kid sidekicks--and it features an all-new conclusion to the storyline! *(July, $13)*

Al Columbia will soon take over the art honors on the Alan Moore-written ***Big Numbers***--but fans who don't want to wait for months to see his work on that book can get a sneak peek at his creative endeavors in ***Doghead.*** The 48-page one-shot is an assortment of offbeat short stories with an existential slant. *(June, $4.95)*

Lots of companies have environmentally-focused comics–but how many of them feature a team of superheroic *plants?!* ***Greenhouse Warriors,*** a new series by Dakin and Elliot, features Thistle, Poppy, Sunflower, and Cactus, a super-quartet created in the greenhouses of Dr. Glass; their mission is to save the world–and mankind–from ecological destruction. *(June-August, $2.95)*

In celebration of fifteen years of English-translation Moebius comics, Tundra is offering a three-volume ***Legends of Arzach Gallery*** series; each Gallery features eight full color prints by some of the industry's best-known talents, plus a special four-page Arzach story chapter by Jean-Marc Lofficier and Moebius. *(June-August, $12.95)*

The Maximortal is the latest book in Rick Veitch's King Hell Heroica storyline; it's the somewhat familiar story of True-Man, a costumed character created in 1934 by two kids from Slumburg. When their fictional creation becomes real, though, the world is changed forever in ways that no one foresaw. *(August, $3.95)*

Mr. Monster Attacks stars–well, do we really have to tell you?... This three-issue limited series features new Mr. Monster stories by the likes of Simon Bisley, Dave Dorman, Dave Gibbons, and Sam Kieth--and, of course, creator Michael T. Gilbert. *(August, $3.95)*

Any books that offers new work by Alan Moore, Eddie Campbell, Mark Martin, Neil Gaiman, Mark Nelson, and Michael Zulli is a must-have; you can find all those creators, and more, in the pages of ***Taboo #6.*** As a special extra, a "penny dreadful" introductory booklet previewing the Gaiman-Zulli ***Sweeney Todd*** series is included with each copy of this issue of ***Taboo.*** From Hell fans will be thrilled with a massive forty-page installment of this Jack the Ripper serial. *(June, $14.95)*

Wind of the Gods #1: Blood From the Moon is a Japanese adventure about a powerful emperor, a samurai, and a struggle for power. Cothias and Adamou have created a powerful, visually compelling work that will thrill Japan-aficionados. *(July, $14.95)*

Psi-Borgs debut in Harbinger 10

Valiant

A new super-team, the HARD Corps, debuts in ***Harbinger #10,*** which is the first part of a two-part story. ***Harbinger #11*** is a can't-miss title for two reasons: first, it features the battle with HARD Corps, who debut in their own monthly series beginning this fall. Second, it features an ***Elfquest*** crossover. Yep, you read that right... *(August, $2.50)*

How does the Valiant Universe of today tie in with the Valiant Universe of 4001? That question is answered in ***Rai #0,*** a must-have for fans of Valiant continuity. This issue, which features the origin of Rising Spirit, details the events that have shaped the Valiant Universe in the two millennia interlude. Virtually every Valiant hero is featured in this issue. *(August, $2.25)*

The hit crossover series Unity wraps up early in the summer, culminating in ***Unity #1,*** the Shooter/Windsor-Smith/Layton finale. Copies of ***Unity #1*** are going to be even rarer than ***Unity #0,*** so don't miss out! *(June)*

Warp

Ever wonder how Elfquest would look if John Byrne drew it? Or how Cutter and Skywise might appear if the Tiny Toons crew reinterpreted them? Well, you'll be able to find out when ***Elfquest: New Blood Summer Special #1*** appears. John Byrne, Terry Beatty, Lea Hernandez, Gary Kato, and Ken Mitch-roney are just a few of the creators who contribute to this unique full color book. *(August, $2)*

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Have you seen anything in this issue of ***Comic Shop News*** that you can't live without? Make sure you don't miss it; clip this handy coupon and write down the things that you want you comics shop owner to be sure to get for you!

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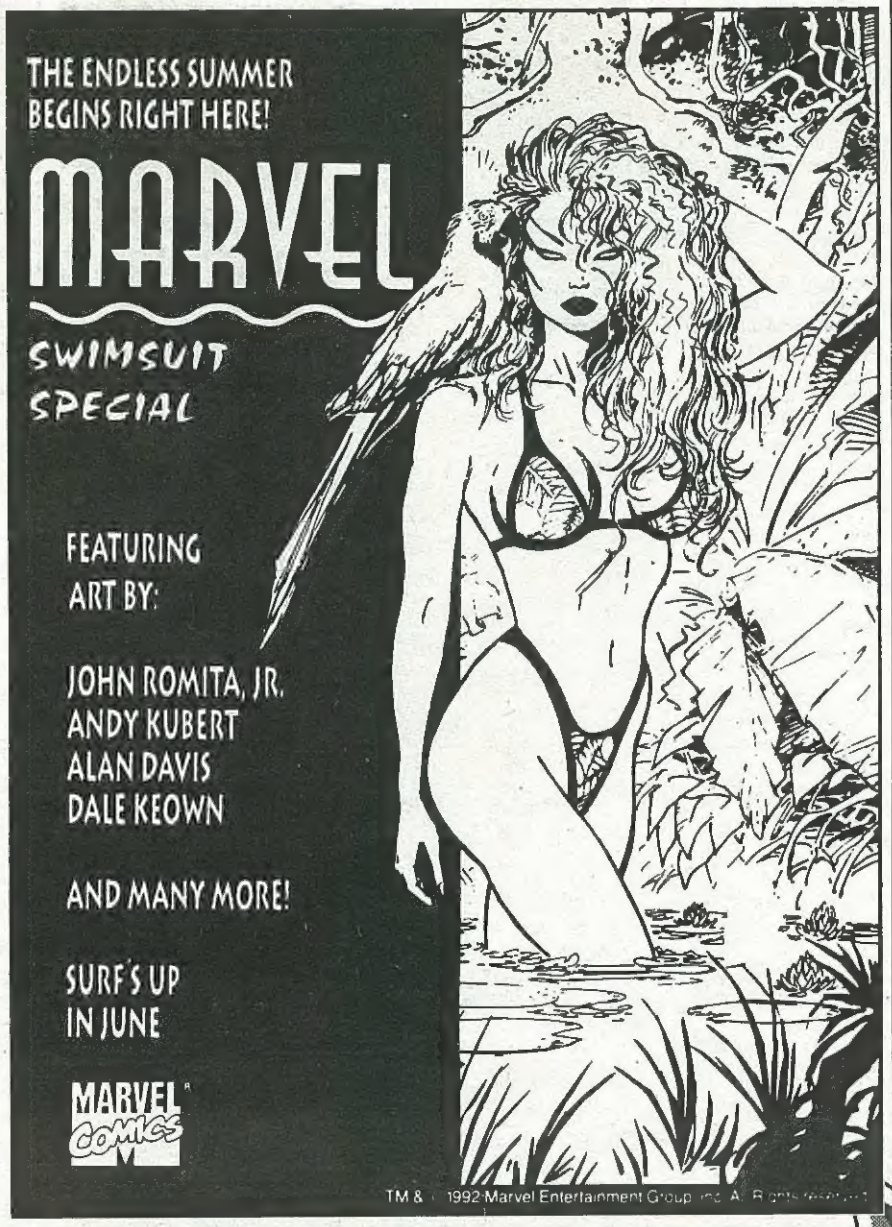

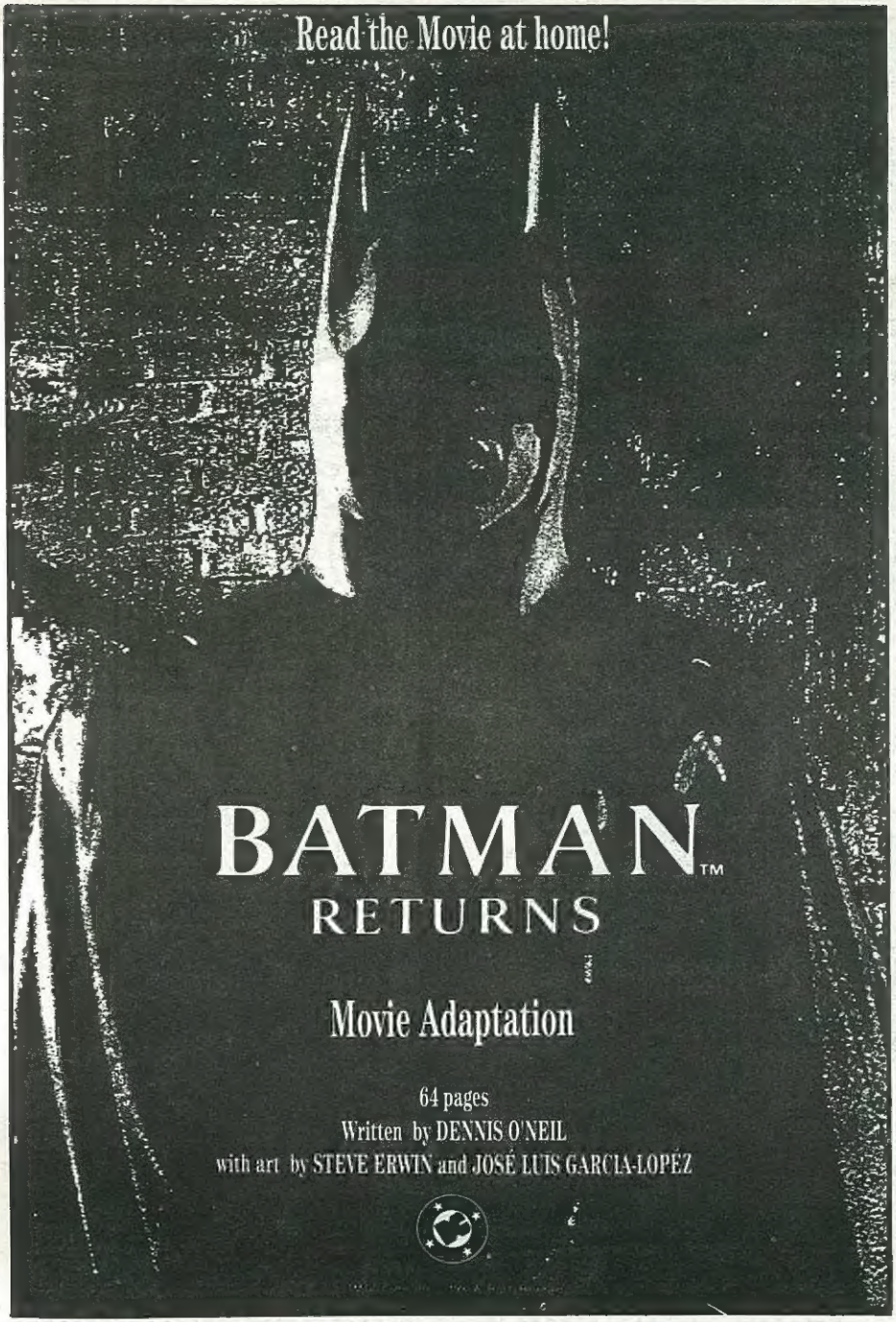
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